

**FAUQUIER COUNTY
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD**

Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2016

4:00 p.m.

Warren Green Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room
10 Hotel Street, Warrenton

Attendance:

Virginia Gerrish (Center District Representative)
John Toler (Scott District Representative)
Mary Root, Chair (Citizen-at-Large)
Bryan Jacobs (Lee District Representative)

Absent:

Reta Rodgers (Cedar Run District Representative)
Jack LaMonica (Marshall District Representative)
Bob Lee (Planning Commission Representative)

Staff:

Wendy Wheatcraft, Preservation Planner
Maureen Williamson, Staff

Guest:

Ken Alm

1. Ms. Root called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. The October 5, 2016 meeting minutes were reviewed. Ms. Root made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Gerrish seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 – 0.
3. Ongoing Business
 - Revision of Fauquier County Historic Resources Plan (review other locality plan examples and NPS plan components list, create Contents outline)

Ms. Root said that when taking into consideration the broad preservation goals and actions established in Chapter 2 of the Comprehensive Plan, there was room to expound upon the existing data and add details in the Fauquier Historic Resources Plan revision. She noted that elements of the preservation plan examples from Loudoun County and the City of Fredericksburg could be incorporated into the Fauquier plan, while other elements would either be unnecessary or redundant.

Ms. Root focused the discussion on developing a County archaeology policy, which was done by other Virginia municipalities, including the City of Alexandria, Loudoun County, and James City County. She shared an article with the ARB titled *Fauquier County Needs an Archaeological Policy* written by Ms. Root, which was published in *The Monitor* in 2014 for the CFFC.

Ms. Wheatcraft referenced Goal 4 in Chapter 2/Section B of the Comprehensive Plan, and interpreted this goal to mean that the County can adopt policies and law to protect historic resources during development plan review (such as an archaeology policy). She said that even though Goal 4 is vaguely worded, Action 4.1.2 is meant to provide the County a justification for adopting an ordinance that would require a process of identification and evaluation of archaeological sites on a parcel slated for development and a system of providing recommendations of treatment or avoidance of those sites found to be significant during the survey and evaluation process. She added that in the revision of the Historic Resources Preservation Plan, the ARB can choose to make the wording of this action more specific or simply incorporate an archaeology policy.

Ms. Root turned the discussion to the goal of surveying resources. She said that it may be important to identify in the revised plan a specific underrepresented type of resource or an area of the County to be surveyed and to name specific funding sources that would help with survey work. She mentioned specifically mills and gold mines, as these are rapidly disappearing archaeological resources. She noted that it would be a good idea to organize a survey of the gold mine sites in Southern Fauquier County. She noted that the Virginia Department of Mineral Resources started research and identified approximately fifteen pits. She feels that the gold mine sites, along with the Gold Mining Museum, may be of value to heritage tourism. She also felt that after looking at the current survey data, the southern end of the County is now underserved. Ms. Wheatcraft mentioned that if Fauquier County received grant funds to complete a comprehensive survey of the gold mines in the County, the Parks & Recreation Department may be willing to provide some of the matching funds for the grant, as this department manages and operates the Monroe Park Gold Mining Museum in Goldvein.

Ms. Wheatcraft stated that there are many heritage resources known by local residents that have yet to be officially identified through survey work, and this is an issue. Take, for example, cemeteries. Ms. Wheatcraft said that she knows of only one funding source that would help with survey work—an annual state cost share grant managed by the Department of Historic Resources (DHR). The County has taken advantage of this cost share grant several times in the past.

Mr. Alm mentioned that the County may wish to look into funding from the PATH Foundation. Ms. Root noted that to receive funding from the PATH Foundation, the request would have to have a health component associated with it. Ms. Wheatcraft said that the Fauquier Historical Society received a grant from the PATH Foundation, but did not recall the topic of the grant project.

Ms. Wheatcraft asked the ARB members what they felt about the other locality plan examples. Ms. Gerrish liked the table of contents from Loudoun County. She thought that “less is more.” Ms. Root noticed that the tables of content from both Loudoun and Fredericksburg are similar to the contents covered in Chapter 2/Section B. She said that the plan would not have to include past preservation activities in Fauquier County, as this is covered in Chapter 2. Ms. Root felt that the two most helpful chapters in Loudoun County’s plan were Chapter 9: Development Review and Chapter 10: Design and Preservation Guidelines. She also noted liking the archaeological program chapter in the Fredericksburg plan, which she felt included elements of the Alexandria archaeological program.

Ms. Wheatcraft asked for the ARB's opinion on threatened resources in Fauquier County, as Loudoun County has an entire chapter dedicated to threatened resources. She continued by saying that threatened resources are discussed in Chapter 2, but in a very general way.

Ms. Wheatcraft said that it would be best to cover all of the elements of a strong local preservation plan recommended by the National Park Service.

The ARB discussed the inclusion of a chapter on education. Ms. Root liked the idea of adding a detailed action to encourage the development of a brochure that would not only congratulate a new owner for purchasing a historic home, but also provide a list of preservation resources, like the historic tax credits programs. Ms. Wheatcraft noted that this information would be applicable to realtors, as well.

Ms. Wheatcraft added that one of the actions currently under the goal of education is to develop a County-wide preservation awards program to provide recognition of significant contributions towards the preservation of Fauquier County's heritage resources. She noted that in the end, people want to be recognized for their efforts. Ms. Gerrish noted that her family received an award by the Town of Warrenton in recognition for work done to their historic property. She noted the award originating from the Town of Warrenton's ARB.

The ARB agreed that there may not be a place for heritage tourism in the plan's revision. However, Ms. Wheatcraft said that there is an action about creating a battlefield visitor's center, which could be an item in the future Civil War battlefield plan. Ms. Root reported waiting to see if the alliance formed in support of a state park at Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain battlefields in Culpeper will bring increased interest in Fauquier County battlefields.

Ms. Root presented a draft table of contents for the Plan revision. Ms. Wheatcraft said she would take the draft and incorporate other comments and suggestions discussed by the ARB and then forward the draft contents to the ARB members for review prior to the December meeting.

- Warrenton Training Center/Warrenton Country School Proposed Demolition Project
Ms. Wheatcraft shared details of her recent conference call with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to coordinate mitigation efforts through the Section 106 review process for the adverse effects of the demolition at the Warrenton Training Center (historically the Warrenton Country School for Girls). Ms. Wheatcraft was told that they also spoke with Fauquier County Library Director Maria Del Rosso, as the Library is also an official consulting party. Ms. Wheatcraft confirmed that this was unusual because generally, all consulting parties participate as a group.

During the conversation, Ms. Wheatcraft stressed that if the buildings were not going to be retained in place or moved and repurposed, then they should be thoroughly documented through a Phase II architectural survey with measured drawings. In addition to documentation, Ms. Wheatcraft requested the preparation of a comprehensive property history and a historic context regarding Fauquier County schools, as well as off-site mitigation that would include a comprehensive survey of all standing Fauquier County historic schools. Corps staff told Ms. Wheatcraft that a National Register individual property nomination had been completed around 2009 for the Warrenton Training Center and said they would forward it to her, as they believe it is a complete history of the property. Corps staff said that they will create meeting minutes and forward them to Ms. Wheatcraft for review. She asked when a

follow up meeting might occur and was met with silence. She felt that this was the one and only mitigation meeting.

4. New Business

- Change of December's Meeting Location?

Ms. Wheatcraft reminded ARB members that for the past few years, the ARB has chosen to hold their December meeting offsite. She asked the members if they would like to do the same this year and if so, what would be the preference of meeting location. The ARB did not come to a consensus on an alternate meeting location.

5. Announcements

There were no announcements made at the meeting.

6. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 2016

7. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.